

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN'S EUROPEAN TIMETABLE

SPAIN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS TOLD AMBAS-
SADOR HINTON THAT:

--ASSUMING THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROGRAM CONTINUES ON
SCHEDULE, SPAIN WILL APPLY FOR EC MEMBERSHIP IN MID-
YEAR.

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--ONCE THE EC HAS AGREED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS, THE WAY
WILL BE OPEN FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP, WHICH COULD BE ACCOM-
PLISHED DURING THE EC NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

--WITH LUCK, SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EC COULD BE
ACHIEVED IN 1981 OR 1982.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT A NEW EC-SPAIN TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED BY JULY 1. (CONFIDENTIAL) EC BRUSSELS 807, 1/27.)

2. PERU: AN AGING REVOLUTION

EMBASSY LIMA, IN AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL SCENE, NOTES THAT THE EIGHT YEAR-OLD PERUVIAN REVOLUTION IS SHOWING DEFINITE SIGNS OF MIDDLE AGE:

--MODERATES ARE NOW IN CONTROL.

--RADICAL INFLUENCES ARE BEING ROOTED OUT.

--RECENT ECONOMIC POLICY INCLUDES ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

--RELATIONS WITH THE US HAVE IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE LAST YEAR.

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE COIN, THE EMBASSY SEES PROBLEMS WITH:

--INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE, WHICH THE US CANNOT HOPE TO BALANCE IN THE MILITARY SUPPLY FIELD;

--SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; AND

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--A GENERAL LACK OF GOOD MANAGEMENT IN THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 727, 1/27.)

3. ANOTHER REPORT OF TENG'S RETURN

OUR LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING HAS A UK EMBASSY INFORMANT'S REPORT THAT THE POLITBURO DECIDED ON JANUARY 23 TO REINSTATE TENG HSIAO-PING TO ALL THREE OF HIS PREVIOUS POSITIONS: CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY, VICE PREMIER, AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE INFORMANT, WHOSE REPORTING THE BRITISH CONSIDER RELIABLE, DID NOT PROVIDE ANY TIMING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PEKING 194, 1/27.)

4. THANIN'S STAR FADING

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS SPECULATION THAT THE THAI MILITARY MAY BE PRESSURING PRIME MINISTER THANIN TO RESHUFFLE HIS CABINET, OR EVEN RESIGN. A BUSINESSMAN ASSOCIATE OF GEN-

ERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT:

--KRIANGSAK HAS ALREADY BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF A CABINET RESHUFFLE WITH THANIN, WHO WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES.

--THANIN WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE TO STEP DOWN, SINCE EVERYONE ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL HAD AGREED TO REMOVE HIM.

A "SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURE" HAS ALSO TOLD THE EMBASSY HE BELIEVES THAT THE MILITARY IS SANCTIONING A CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC FOR THANIN'S DEPARTURE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN THAI POLITICAL CIRCLES THAT THERE MAY BE CABINET CHANGES AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 15 (A SIGNIFICANT DATE IN THAI
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ASTROLOGY), AND "COMPETENT ASTROLOGERS" REPORTEDLY ARE ALL PREDICTING SERIOUS TROUBLE FOR THANIN IN THE COMING MONTHS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 1917, 1/26.)
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